

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

IKEDA ET AL

Atty. Ref.: 249-189

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

Filed: August 17, 2001

Examiner:

For: HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY ELECTRODE, MANUFACTURING METHOD  
THEREOF, AND ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY EQUIPPED WITH THE  
HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY ELECTRODE

\* \* \* \* \*

August 17, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination,  
please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously  
presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

4. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in claim  
1, wherein the solvent in the solvent- attaching step contains the binder.

5. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in claim  
1, wherein attaching of the solvent in the solvent-attaching step is carried out by spraying.

6. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in claim 1, wherein the electrode is hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode using a hydrogen absorbing alloy as the active material, which can reversibly carrying out electrochemical absorbing and desorbing of hydrogen.

9. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in claim 7, wherein the amount of the solvent for the binder attaching to the surface of the dry electrode is from  $3 \times 10^{-5}$  g/mm<sup>2</sup> to  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  g/mm<sup>2</sup> per unit area of the above-described negative electrode.

13. (Amended) The method of producing a hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode described in claim 11, further includes a low-temperature drying step of drying, after the solvent-attaching step, the electrode attached with the solvent at a temperature lower than the drying temperature in the above-described drying step.

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**REMARKS**

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.  
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

4. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the solvent in the solvent- attaching step contains the binder.

5. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein attaching of the solvent in the solvent-attaching step is carried out by spraying.

6. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the electrode is hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode using a hydrogen absorbing alloy as the active material, which can reversibly carrying out electrochemical absorbing and desorbing of hydrogen.

9. (Amended) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery described in claim ~~7 or 8~~, wherein the amount of the solvent for the binder attaching to the surface of the dry electrode is from  $3 \times 10^{-5}$  g/mm<sup>2</sup> to  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  g/mm<sup>2</sup> per unit area of the above-described negative electrode.

13. (Amended) The method of producing a hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode described in claim ~~11 or 12~~, further includes a low-temperature drying step of drying, after the solvent-attaching step, the electrode attached with the solvent at a temperature lower than the drying temperature in the above-described drying step.